



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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Public Health Advisory

September 9, 2025

COVID-19 Vaccination Recommended for Everyone 6 Months and Older

Dear Colleagues:

Background

On August 27, 2025, the FDA approved updated COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax) but limited their use to individuals 65 and older or those of any age with certain high-risk health conditions, such as asthma or obesity. Pfizer's vaccine is no longer authorized for healthy children under 5; only Moderna's Spikevax remains an mRNA option—and only for high-risk young children. As of today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hasn't issued updated guidance for these new boosters, amid ongoing leadership changes and internal disputes over vaccine policy. These federal changes challenge broader access and raise serious questions about insurance coverage, which may now be contingent on strict eligibility criteria.

We are closely monitoring guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the [West Coast Health Alliance](#) to determine if additional local health measures are necessary to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines in Marin County.

Marin County Public Health Recommendation

Marin County Public Health recommends COVID-19 vaccination for everyone aged 6 months and older, based on:

- Ongoing **scientific evidence** and real-world data point to the vaccines' safety and effectiveness across all ages in preventing severe COVID-19 illness and death.
- Alignment with independent, trusted medical organizations, including the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**, which continues to recommend vaccination for all children 6 months–23 months, and supports access for older children whose parents elect for vaccination.
- Local epidemiological data showing persistent COVID-19 transmission and enhanced pressure on healthcare systems during the respiratory virus season.
- Vaccination reduces the risk of long COVID in both children and adults.

What This Means for Healthcare Providers in Marin

- **Offer Vaccination Broadly:** Encourage COVID-19 vaccination for everyone **6 months and older**, regardless of federal eligibility limits.
- **Co-Administer with Flu Shots:** Whenever possible, offer both COVID-19 and influenza vaccines together to streamline access and protection.
- **Prioritize Equity & Access:** Ensure availability at clinics, pharmacies, and community locations. Use the [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\)](#) and the [Bridge Access Program](#) to support children and uninsured individuals.
- **Communicate Transparently:** Clearly explain that Marin's local recommendation extends beyond the FDA's narrowed authorization and is rooted in public health protection.
- **Prepare for Coverage Challenges:** Inform patients that insurance may not cover off-label vaccination, but local programs aim to reduce barriers.

Summary

Despite federal agencies narrowing eligibility, Marin County Public Health recommends COVID-19 vaccination for **everyone aged 6 months and older**, following scientific guidance and independent expert consensus. We are committed to equitable access and clear communication to protect our communities this year.

For Further Information

Healthcare providers with questions regarding COVID-19 or influenza vaccination may contact Marin County Public Health at 415-473-4163.

Health care providers: Please review the Marin County COVID-19 Vaccine Finder (coronavirus.marinhhs.org/vaccinefinder) for the latest information on vaccine availability, appointment scheduling, and patient referral resources.

Sincerely,

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